



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Georgia families understand the value of higher education and recognize its importance for their children's future. For many Georgians, however, rising costs of higher education can pose significant burdens; and
- WHEREAS: For many families, commitment to proper financial planning is essential to ensuring children have access to college; and
- WHEREAS: An average earnings gap exists between those with a high school diploma and those who earn a bachelor's degree or beyond that may exceed \$1 million over a lifetime, making college a worthy investment in our children's future; and
- WHEREAS: Loan programs are the primary source of financial aid for college students, which results in many students graduating with debt that must be repaid long after they have completed their education; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes the need to encourage saving and planning, rather than borrowing, to help Georgia families meet their higher education goals; and
- WHEREAS: In accordance with state and federal law, the State of Georgia has established the Path2College 529 Plan, a Section 529 college savings plan that offers both state and federal tax advantages, to encourage saving for higher education expenses and promote educational opportunities for all Georgia students; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Rieley

CHIEF OF STAFF